

Map 29 Mauretania Caesariensis

Compiled by T.W. Potter, 1995

Introduction

Much of the data presented here was assembled for AAA by Gsell, who collated evidence from a wide variety of sources, not least the pioneering survey work of A. Joly. Since then, there have been some valuable regional studies, like those of Cadenat (1957) in the vicinity of Tiaret, and some remarkable contributions by Salama (1951 onwards) on the Roman road network and its chronological evolution. For this, the ancient itineraries, together with milestones (a number of them datable), have been an important source of evidence. In addition, I have studied earlier modern maps, since French routes often seem to be closely modeled on those of the Roman period (see further Map 30 Introduction). There has been a dearth of modern field survey, however, and there is still much to be learned about such factors as the densities of settlement or agricultural strategies.

Nevertheless, the manifest concentration of Roman occupation in the north-eastern part of the area covered would seem to be an archaeological reality. It reflects several successive stages of colonization. Many of the more important coastal sites developed under Carthaginian stimulus, which gave way to Roman occupation in the first centuries B.C. and A.D. The settlements in the Chulimath (Oued Chélif) river valley, and in the flatlands to the west, were mainly military foundations in the earlier part of the second century A.D., under Trajan and Hadrian. By contrast, those to the south, along the Columnata-Ala Miliaria-Numerus Syrorum line, seem to be largely of Severan date (early third century). Most of them, too, were originally forts where considerable towns often grew up, distributed along the foot of the east-west mountain ranges. Although apparently lacking any continuous barrier or ditch, they clearly formed a *limes* or *praetentura* (Salama 1953; 1955a; Benseddik 1982). Indeed, there are very few unequivocally Roman sites in the semi-desert beyond. Notable are some probable fortified farms, conceivably of veterans (or, less plausibly, military posts: Salama 1977; Benseddik 1980); also an inscription from Agueneb recording an expeditionary force sent far into the desert in May A.D. 174. It may derive from a commemorative monument set up in that area, where there are also two possible Roman forts, at el Khadra and el Bayadh.

To the north-west, there were some settlements on the coast as far as Rusaddir (modern Melilla); but no substantial pre-Roman or Roman site has yet been securely identified further west, on the seaward side of the great Rif Mountains, despite the listing of some places in ItAnt. This itinerary also locates the boundary between Mauretania Caesariensis and Mauretania Tingitana at the Mulucha/Malva river (Oued Moulouia). The distribution of sites, however, suggests that in practice the border ran on or close to the Siga river (Oued Tafna), between Numerus Syrorum and Siga, not far from the modern frontier between Algeria and Morocco; a road built by Macrinus (A.D. 217-18) followed its course and was conceivably a *limes* (Salama 1966). There may perhaps have been some sort of route towards Volubilis (Map 28), as the map suggests (Rebuffat 1971; 1982; Thouvenot 1973; Speidel 1977); but its existence is inferred rather than proven, and Roman sites have not been identified along its possible course. Some notable Berber hillforts are known in the region (Marion 1957), though they cannot be closely dated.

Indigenous settlements and tombs (*bazinas*) are prolific in many parts of the uplands and semi-desert. Although undoubtedly a conspicuous element of the ancient landscape (and fully cataloged in AAA), their chronology is almost wholly unknown, and they have been omitted; it is thus essentially a pattern of Roman settlement that is shown. The principal exceptions are the great Djedar funeral monuments (G1) of the Frenda region (Khadra 1974; 1979). Erected around the late fifth to late sixth centuries A.D., they serve to illustrate the emergence of a series of local Berber kingdoms, which grew up with the decline of Roman and Vandal control (Camps 1984).

Directory

All place names are in Algeria unless otherwise noted

Abbreviation

AAA S. Gsell, *Atlas archéologique de l'Algérie*, Algiers and Paris, 1911

Names

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
E1	Ad Dracones?	RL	Hammam bou Hadjar	AAA 31.10
D1	Ad Fratres?	R	Ghazaouet (Nemours)	AAA 30.3
A1	Africum Mare			See Map 1
G3	<i>Agueneb</i>	R		CIL 8.21567
F2	<i>Ain Balloul</i>	R		AAA 32.126, 127 + Add.
G1	<i>Ain Bénia</i>	R		AAA 34.26; Benseddik 1980
D2	<i>Ain bent es Soltane</i>	R		AAA 42.82; Benseddik 1980
G2	<i>Ain ed Draham</i>	R		AAA 33.43 + Add.
G1	<i>Ain el Aneb</i>	RL		AAA 23.17
D1	<i>Ain el Bridj</i>	RL		AAA 31.16
G1	<i>Ain el Merselia</i>	R		AAA 22.54
G1	<i>Ain Ouaba</i>	R		AAA 23.14 + Add.
G1	<i>Ain Sarb</i>	RL		AAA 33.12; Cadenat 1974
H1	<i>Ain Smir</i>	R		AAA 34.37 + Add.; Salama 1977, 585
D1	<i>Ain Tekbalet</i>	R		AAA 31.34
G1	<i>Ain Tissemsil</i>	R	Vialar	AAA 23.16
G1	<i>Ain Toukria</i>	RL	Bourbaki	AAA 23.27 + Add.; Leschi 1953
D1	Akra Ins.	AC	Île de Rachgoun	AAA 31.3; Vuillemot 1955
G1	Akouensioi?	RL?	in Ouarsenis	Desanges 1962, 43-44; EncBerb 3
F1	Ala Miliaria/ Tigit	RL	Bénian	AAA 32.93; Gui 1992, 5-10; EncBerb 3
D1	Albulae/ Praesidium Sufative	RL	Ain Témouchent	AAA 31.9; Marcillet-Jaubert 1977; EncBerb 3 Ain-Témouchent
D2	Altava	RL	Ouled Mimoun / Hadjar Roum / Lamorcière	AAA 31.68; Marcillet-Jaubert 1968; EncBerb 4
G1	<i>Ammi Moussa</i>	L		AAA 22.61 + Add.
E1	Aquae Sirenses	RL	Hammam bou Hanifia	AAA 32.18; Gui 1992, 2-5; EncBerb 22 Hamman-bou-Hanifia
E1	<i>Argoub Rouiba</i>	R		AAA 31.26
F1	Ballene Praesidium	R	L'Hillil	AAA 21.29; EncBerb 9
F1	Bavares	HRL	partly in Ouarsenis	Desanges 1962, 47-48; EncBerb 9
G3	<i>el Bayadh</i>	R	formerly Géryville	Salama 1977, 585
D1	Camarata?	R	Sidi Djelloul	AAA 31.7
B3	Canarii?	HRL	Oued Guir area MOR	Desanges 1962, 212; EncBerb 11
F1	Castra Nova	RL	Mohammadia / Perrégaux	AAA 21.27 + Add.
E1	Castra Puer(or)um	CHRL	Les Andalouses	AAA 20.7
G2	Cen(.,.)?	RL	Aioun Sbiba	AAA 33.34 + Add.; Salama 1955
F1	Chulimath fl.			See Map 30
F1	Cohors Breucorum/ Kaputurbe	R	Henchir Souik near Takhemaret / Tagremaret	AAA 33.23; Cadenat 1957
G1	Columnata	RL	Sidi Hosni / Waldeck-Rousseau	AAA 23.27 + Add.; Cadenat 1958; 1988; EncBerb 13
D1	<i>Damous</i>	RL		AAA 30.11; Salama 1966, 183
H1	<i>Derrag</i>	R	formerly Letourneux	AAA 23.31; Salama 1977, 585
E1	<i>Djebel Orousse</i>	R		AAA 21.4

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
G1	<i>Djedars</i>	L		AAA 33.66 and 67; Khadra 1974; 1979; EncBerb 16
F1	<i>Dra el Remel</i>	R		AAA 32.96
F1	<i>Dryitai?</i>	R	Saida Mts.	Desanges 1962, 50; EncBerb 17
E1	<i>Eloulloi?</i>	R	Sidi-bel-Abbès area	Desanges 1962, 50-51; EncBerb 17
E1	<i>Error? Ins.</i>		Île Plane	ItMarit 512.5; AAA 20.8
F1	<i>Fortassa</i>	R	formerly Uzès-le-Duc	AAA 22.43
F1	<i>Gadaum Castra</i>	R	Djidiouia / Saint-Aimé	AAA 22.5 + Add.; Benseddik 1982, 173
E1	<i>Gent</i>	R		AAA 32.2
D2	<i>Ghar Roubane</i>	R		AAA 41.5; Desanges 1962, 55
E1	<i>Guetna</i>	RL		AAA 32.8
D2	<i>Hadjar Ouâghef</i>	R		AAA 31.52
B1	<i>Herpeditanoi</i>	HRL	Melilla-Oudja area MOR	Desanges 1962, 54-55; EncBerb 22
F1	<i>Inkermann</i>	R	Oued Riou	AAA 22.1
D1	<i>Isaris fl.</i>		Oued Isser	AAA 31.42
G1	<i>Kansade</i>	R		AAA 23.11
E2	<i>Kaputtasaccora</i> <i>Kaputurbe = Cohors</i> <i>Breucorum</i>	R	Sidi Ali ben Yub / Chanzy	AAA 31.76; Benseddik 1982, 178-79
F2	<i>Kerkab</i> Kh., see Kherba	R		AAA 32.97
F2	<i>el Khadra</i>	R		Benseddik 1982, 182
G1	<i>el Kherba</i>	R		AAA 22.92
G1	<i>Kherba Achlef</i>	RL		AAA 22.107; Cadenat 1988, 57-59
G1	<i>Kherba des Aouissat</i>	RL		AAA 22.129 + Add.; Cadenat 1957, 98
G1	<i>Kherba Sidi el Ahmar</i>			See Map 30
G1	<i>Kherba Oum el Adame</i>	R		AAA 23.25
F1	<i>Koliaa</i>	R		AAA 32.95
D2	<i>Koudiat en Nessera</i>	RL		AAA 42.19; BCTH 1954, 71-73
D2	<i>Koudiat er Roum</i>	RL		AAA 42.17; BCTH 1954, 71-73
E1	<i>Koudiat Lakdar</i>	R		AAA 20.26
G1	<i>Koudiat M'rakab</i>	R		AAA 23.18; Cadenat 1988, 63-65
G1	<i>Koudiat Sidi ben Beha</i>	R		AAA 33.81 + Add.
G1	<i>Ksar el Kaoua</i>	L		Gsell 1901 I, 102-106; AAA 22.63 + Add.
D1	<i>Ksar Hannoun</i>	R		AAA 31.50
E1	<i>Laturus Sinus</i>		Gulf of Arzew / Arzew	AAA 21.6; Desanges 1980, 182-83
C1	<i>Lemnis?</i>	R	E Cap Milonia	AAA 30.1
E2	<i>Lucu</i>	R	Timziouine	AAA 32.46; Benseddik 1982, 178-79
E1	<i>Malva? fl. = Mulucha? fl.</i> <i>Massaesylis?</i>	RL	Mascara area	Desanges 1962, 62; 1980, 145-46, 154
A2	<i>Maurusii</i>		MOR	See Map 28
C2	<i>Mauretania Caesariensis</i>	RL		RE Mauretania
A2	<i>Mauretania Tingitana</i>		MOR	See Map 28
E3	<i>Melanogaitouloi?</i>	HRL	S Chott ech Chergui	Desanges 1962, 223
H1	<i>el Mendjel el Abiod</i>	R		AAA 23.29
G1	<i>Merhassel</i>	R		AAA 22.93
D1	<i>Mersa Madakh</i>	CH		AAA 20.5; Vuillemot 1954
F1	<i>Mina</i>	RL	Ighil Izane / Relizane	AAA 21.36; Leglay 1955, 187
F1	<i>Mina fl.</i>		Oued Mina	AAA 21.36
E1	<i>Misserghin</i>	RL		AAA 20.21
C2	<i>Mulucha? / Malva? fl.</i>		Oued Moulouia	AAA 21.11; Desanges 1980, 154-57 AAA; Desanges 1980, 150-51
G1	<i>Nakmousioi?</i>	R	Relizane-Tiaret area	Desanges 1962, 66
E3	<i>Nigritae</i>	HRL	SE Moroccan Atlas Mts.	Desanges 1962, 226-27; 1980, 452-54

Grid	Name	Period	Modern Name / Location	Reference
D2	Numerus Syrorum	RL	Lalla Maghnia / Marnia	AAA 41.1 + Add.; Rebuffat 1971, 60-63
G1	<i>Oued Ferdja</i>	R		AAA 33.37 + Add.
F1	<i>Oued Haddad</i>	R		AAA 22.40
G1	<i>Oukki</i>	R		AAA 22.119, 120; Cadenat 1988, 56-57
D2	Pomaria	RL	Tlemcen	AAA 31.56
E1	Portus Divinus	R	Rade de Mers el Kébir	AAA 20.12; Desanges 1984, 143
E1	Portus Magnus	CHR	Bettioua / Saint-Leu	AAA 21.6; PECS
D1	Portus Sigensis Praesidium Sufative = Albulae	CHRL	mouth of Oued Tafna	AAA 31.2; Vuillemot 1971
F1	Quiza Cenitana			See Map 30
E1	Regiae	RL	Arbal	AAA 20.33; Lepelley 1981, 542
G1	<i>Rouahia</i>	R		Cadenat 1978
C1	Rusaddi(r) Pr.		Cap des Trois Fourches	ItAnt 11.3; Desanges 1980, 149-50 (n. 9)
C1	Rusaddir	HR	Melilla SPN	PECS
E1	<i>Ste-Barbe-du-Tlélat</i>	R		AAA 21.19
D1	Salsum fl.		Oued Mélah / Rio Salado	AAA 20.1-4
G1	<i>Sidi bou Zid</i>	R		AAA 33.38 + Add.
G1	<i>Sidi Djerbala</i>	R		AAA 22.95; Cadenat 1988, 59-61
D2	<i>Sidi Hamza</i>	R		AAA 42.73 + Add.
D2	<i>Sidi Medjaheb</i>	L		AAA 41.3; Marion 1959
D1	<i>Si Slimane</i>	R		AAA 31.8
D1	Siga	CHRL	Takembrit	AAA 31.1; Rüger 1979
D1	Siga fl.		Oued Tafna	AAA 31.2
E1	Sira fl.		Oued Habra	AAA 21.11, 28; 32.18
E1	Sorai	R	Oued el-Hammam area	Desanges 1962, 68-69
F1	<i>Souama de Mecherasfa</i>	RL		AAA 33.3 + Add.; Cadenat 1957, 86-87
G1	<i>Souma</i>	R		AAA 22.106
D1	Taladousioi	R	N Tlemcen Mts. or in Tessala	Desanges 1962, 69
E1	Tasaccora	RL	Sig / St-Denis-du-Sig	AAA 21.25
E1	Tasaccora fl.		Oued Mekerna-Oued Sig	AAA 21.25; 31.76
D1	Tauria? Ins.		Îles Habibas	ItMarit 512.5; AAA 20.6
E1	<i>Tazout</i>	R		AAA 21.3 + Add.
E1	Tect(...)	R	Ténira	AAA 31.79
G1	<i>Temordjanet</i>	R		AAA 33.130 + Add.; Benseddik 1980, 989
D1	Tepidae	RL	Ain el Hammam / Sidi	AAA 31.35
	§ Safar	R	Abdelli	AAA 31.68; Camps 1984, 196-97
G1	<i>Tiaret</i>	RL		AAA 33.14 + Add.; Cadenat 1977
E2	Tolotai?	R	Altava area	Desanges 1962, 70
G1	<i>Tourhzout</i>	R		AAA 33.35 + Add.
C1	Tres Inss.		Îles Zaffarines	ItAnt 11.5
G1	<i>Trumelet</i>	RL		AAA 33.16 + Add.; Cadenat 1957, 99-100

Aqueducts

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
D1	near Siga	R	Grewe 1992, 24-25
F1	near Mina	R	AAA 21.36; 22.14-20

Hillforts

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
D2	SW Ghar Roubane	HRL?	Marion 1957

Lighthouse

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
F1	W Quiza Cenitana		See Map 30, Numbered Sites 1

Mausolea

Grid	Location	Period	Reference
G1	S Kherba Sidi el Ahmar (9)	RL	AAA 22.68 and 71 + Add. 74-81

Roads

Itinerary	Period	Reference
Numerus Syrorum → Cohors Breucorum → Columnata → Kherba des Ouled Hellal	RL	Benseddik 1982, 175-81
Siga → Regiae → Gadaum Castra	RL	AAA 31.9
Numerus Syrorum → Siga	RL	Salama 1966
Numerus Syrorum → SW to Volubilis?	R	Rebuffat 1982
Rusaddir → Siga → Portus Magnus → Quiza Cenitana	RL	AAA 21.6
Siga → Pomaria	RL	AAA 31.56
Pomaria → Albulae → Koudiat Lakdar → Portus Magnus	RL	AAA 31.56
Pomaria → Ksar Hannoun → Argoub Rouiba → Regiae → Portus Divinus	RL	AAA 31.56
Cen(...)? → Temordjanet	RL	AAA 33.34
Aquae Sirenses → Ala Miliaria	RL	AAA 32.18; Benseddik 1982, 178
Tect(...) → Aquae Sirenses → Guetna → Castra Nova	RL	AAA 32.18
Portus Magnus → Tasaccora	RL	AAA 21.25
Kaputtasaccora → Argoub Rouiba	RL	AAA 31.76

Unlocated Toponyms

Name	Period	Probable Location	Reference
Ad Crispas	R	between Salsum fl. and Castra Puer(or)um	ItAnt 13.4; AAA 20.5
Ad Rubras	R	30 m. p. from Albulae	ItAnt 36.4; AAA 31.16, 44
Agilaam fl.	L	Oued Riou? Oued Chélif?	GeogRav 3.8; AAA 22.1; 11.3
Artisiga/ Artisica/ Gypsaria	R	between Ad Fratres and Portus Caecili	Ptol. 4.2.2; ItAnt 12.6; AAA 30.4
Calama/ Galama	R	harbor with route to Albulae	ItAnt 36.3; ItMarit 513.1; GeogRav 5.4; AAA 30.11
Cannar(um) Pr. Castra Severiana	R	Cap Ras-Tarf? Altava area?	ItAnt 11.2 CIL 8.9835; Camps 1984, 196-97
Chalkorycheia	R	Cu mines W Siga	Ptol. 4.2.5; Desanges 1962, 54
Dourdon M.		area of Sidi-bel-Abbès	Ptol. 4.1.6; 4.2.4; Desanges 1962, 50

Name	Period	Probable Location	Reference
Galama = Calama Gilva Col. = Silva Gypsaria = Artisiga			
Herpis	R	E Mauretania Tingitana	Ptol. 4.1.7; Desanges 1962, 54
Limes Muticitanus	L	Mauretania Caesariensis	NotDig Oc. 30.7, 16; AAA 23.17
Molochath	R	Moulouya valley	Ptol. 4.1.7; Desanges 1980, 154-57
Nigrensia fl.		Oued Amieur?	GeogRav 3.8; AAA 31.51
Parietina	R	Badis?	ItAnt 10.5; Cressier 1992, 398
Popleto fl.		Oued Kouarda?	ItAnt 12.4; AAA 30.2
Portus Caecili	R	between Artisica and Siga	ItAnt 12.7; AAA 30.5
Sardabale fl.		Oued Macta? Oued Habra?	AAA 21.11; Desanges 1980, 182-83
Saltus Cu(...)	R	Regiae area	CIL 8.21663; AAA 20.24
Silva/ Gilva Col.	R	between Salsum fl. and Castra Puer(or)um	ItAnt 13.5; AAA 20.5
Sita Col.?	L	near Siga?	GeogRav 3.8; AAA 31.16
Valonice	R	between Camarata and Portus Magnus	GeogRav 5.4; AAA 20.5

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